

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1947

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SUBJECT: SOVIET AND GDR PROTESTS ON SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING OF
LAENDER INTERIOR MINISTERS IN BERLIN

REF: (A) USBERLIN 1601 SEPTEMBER 14, 1974

(B) USBERLIN 1009

(C) USBERLIN 1049

SUMMARY: SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KHOTULEV DELIVERED TO
FRENCH (CHAIRMAN) POLAD SEPTEMBER 22 STATEMENT PROTESTING
SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING OF FRG LAENDER INTERIOR MINISTERS IN
BERLIN AS VIOLATION OF QA. IN UNUSUAL STEP, EMBASSY
SIMULTANEOUSLY RELEASED TO ADN NEWS AND SUBSTANCE OF
DEMARCHE. THREE DAYS EARLIER, GDR HAD VIA ADN RELEASE
ISSUED OWN PROTEST AT MEETING. MISSION VIEW IS THAT
SOVIET PROTEST WAS LARGELY FOR RECORD AND PERHAPS IN
RESPONSE TO GDR PRESSURES, AND THAT REMARKS MADE BY FRENCH
POLAD AT TIME OBVIATE NEED FOR FORMALIZED ALLIED
RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

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2. INTERIOR MINISTERS OF FRG LAENDER HELD ONE-DAY

MEETING IN REICHSTAG BUILDING IN BERLIN SEPTEMBER 19. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDED INTENSIFIED POLICE SEARCH FOR WANTED TERRORISTS AND ANARCHISTS (WITH REPORT ON LATEST BERLIN ARRESTS); CRITERIA FOR LOYALTY TESTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE; FOREST FIRE DISASTER THAT OCCURRED IN LOWER SAXONY IN AUGUST; AND DIVISION OF PROFITS FROM FRG TELEVISION LOTTERY.

3. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KHOTULEV CALLED ON FRENCH (CHAIRMAN) POLAD SEPTEMBER 22 TO DELIVER ORAL STATEMENT PROTESTING MEETING. CONTRARY TO NORMAL PRACTICE FOR ALLIED-SOVIET EXCHANGES AT POLAD LEVEL, KHOTULEV LEFT BEHIND NO AIDE MEMOIRE. GIST OF STATEMENT, AS REPORTED BY FRENCH POLAD, WAS AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT: THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE THREE POWERS TO MEETINGS OF FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY ORGANS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN BERLIN-WEST CONTRARY TO THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. THE WESTERN AMBASSADORS HAD ASSURED AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV SEVERAL TIMES THAT THEY WOULD THEMSELVES FOLLOW SUCH MATTERS VERY CLOSELY AND WOULD ENSURE THAT THE MEETINGS IN QUESTION WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TIES. IN SPITE OF THIS, A FURTHER MEETING OF LAENDER MINISTERS HAS JUST TAKEN PLACE WITH AN AGENDA INCONSISTENT WITH THIS REQUIREMENT. THIS REPRESENTS A FRESH INSTANCE OF A VIOLATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. END TEXT.

4. FRENCH POLAD REPLIED THAT ALLIES HAD ALREADY RESPONDED TO SIMILAR DEMARCHE MADE BY SOVIETS ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1974 (REF A) CONCERNING MEETING OF LAENDER INTERIOR MINISTERS, AND THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT HE HAD SAID AT THAT TIME. SOVIETS SHOULD NOT IN CURRENT INSTANCES EXPECT TO RECEIVE DIFFERENT OR MORE DETAILED RESPONSE FROM ALLIED AUTHORITIES. FRENCH POLAD TOOK OPPORTUNITY, HOWEVER, TO DRAW KHOTULEV'S ATTENTION TO APPARENT SOVIET MISUNDERSTANDING OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF ANNEX II OF QA AND OF LETTER FROM THREE AMBASSADORS TO FEDERAL CHANCELLOR CONCERNING INTERPRETATION OF THIS ANNEX.
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SUBSECTION (A) OF LETTER MADE CLEAR THAT ONLY PROHIBITED ACTS WERE THOSE PERFORMED IN EXERCISE OF DIRECT STATE AUTHORITY OVER WESTERN SECTORS. KHOTULEV, IN REJOINER, READ PART OF SUBSECTION (B) OF LETTER SPECIFYING THAT COMMITTEES OF BUNDESTAG AND BUNDESRAT COULD MEET SINGLY IN BERLIN IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING TIES. FRENCH POLAD COUNTERED THAT THIS PASSAGE WAS SUBJECT TO STRICT INTERPRETATION AND IN FACT CONCERNED ONLY BUNDESTAG AND BUNDESRAT COMMITTEES AND NOT OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ORGANS. (HE MIGHT ALSO HAVE NOTED THAT INTERIOR

MINISTERS CONFERENCE IS NOT STATE BODY ESTABLISHED BY LAW, BUT ONLY INFORMAL GROUPING OF LAENDER MINISTERS FOR COORDINATION PURPOSES).

5. IT WAS AGAINST KHOTULEV'S NORMAL PRACTICE NOT TO LEAVE COPY OF HIS STATEMENT; IT WAS LIKEWISE UNUSUAL--ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED, ACCORDING TO FRENCH MISSION HERE-- THAT SOVIET EMBASSY RELEASED TO ADN ON SAME DAY NEWS THAT DEMARCHE HAD BEEN MADE TO ALLIED AUTHORITIES. AS CARRIED IN SEPTEMBER 23 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, ADN ITEM REPORTED SOVIET STATEMENT AS ASSERTING THAT INTERIOR MINISTERS' AGENDA HAD TOUCHED ON QUESTIONS OF SECURITY AND STATUS AND WAS CONSEQUENTLY IN VIOLATION OF QA, ESPECIALLY PROVISION THAT WEST BERLIN WAS NOT CONSTITUENT PART OF FRG AND COULD NOT BE GOVERNED BY LATTER. THREE DAYS PRIOR TO SOVIET DEMARCHE, "COMPETENT CIRCLES OF THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR" (CURIOUS TERMINOLOGY) HAD IN FACT ISSUED OWN PROTEST VIA ADN OVER LAENDER INTERIOR MINISTERS' MEETING, RESORTING, IN STANDARD GDR FASHION, TO BLUNDERBUSS ARGUMENT THAT WEST BERLIN WAS NOT CONSTITUENT PART OF FRG ETC. THIS LATTER PROTEST WAS

ROUTINELY REJECTED BY SENAT PRESS SPOKESMAN STRUVE, WHO DECLARED THAT INTERIOR MEETING AND OTHER CONFERENCES OF LAENDER MINISTERS IN BERLIN WERE FULLY IN CONFORMITY WITH QA.

6. COMMENT: SOVIETS SEEM TO HAVE MADE HABIT OF PERIODICALLY PROTESTING BERLIN MEETINGS OF LAENDER INTERIOR MINISTERS, HAVING PREVIOUSLY DONE SO IN 1973 AND 1974. THEY IGNORED MEETING OF CULTURAL MINISTERS A WEEK EARLIER.

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WE SAW NO OBJECTION TO AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING, AND NO GROUNDS FOR INTERVENTION WITH SENAT OR FRG AUTHORITIES. OUR IMPRESSION, MOREOVER, IS THAT SOVIET STATEMENT WAS LARGELY PERFUNCTORY--ABSENCE OF AIDE MEMOIRE BEING INDICATION OF THIS-- AND THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN INDUCED PRIMARILY BY GDR PRESSURES. LATTER CONSIDERATION WOULD PERHAPS EXPLAIN UNUSUAL STEP OF RELEASING TO ADN NEWS AND SUBSTANCE OF SOVIET DEMARCHE.

7. MISSION VIEW, ESPECIALLY IN ABOVE LIGHT, IS THAT ALLIED ARGUMENTS REGARDING LAENDER MINISTERS' MEETINGS IN BERLIN HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY REHEARSED WITH SOVIETS IN PAST AND THAT NO FORMAL RESPONSE TO LATEST DEMARCHE IS REQUIRED. WE NOTE THAT FRENCH POLAD MORE OR LESS ADVISED SOVIETS NOT TO EXPECT RESPONSE. ON OTHER HAND, CONSIDERING NOT INFREQUENT SOVIET COMPLAINTS ABOUT ALLIED MISSIONS' LEAKS TO PRESS, WE MIGHT WISH TO REMIND SOVIETS AT SOME SUITABLE OCCASION THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT ALLIED-

SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS IN BERLIN SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.GEORGE

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